

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“___”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“—”) being deleted:

1. (Currently Amended) A master set top terminal (STT), comprising:
 - a first tuner tuning a television signal from a received multiplexed signal, into a first tuned television signal;
 - a second tuner tuning the television signal from the received multiplexed signal, into second tuned television signal;
 - an encoder coupled to the first tuner and receiving the first tuned television signal and digitally encoding the first tuned television signal;
 - a transmitter coupled to the encoder and transmitting the encoded signal to a remote STT to be displayed on a first viewing device;
 - a receiver receiving a control signal from the remote STT corresponding to a user input;
 - ~~and~~
 - a controller coupled to the receiver and configured to accept the control signal from the receiver and instruct the first tuner to change the tuned television signal in response thereto, such that the transmitter transmits a changed encoded signal to the remote STT for display on the ~~viewing device.~~ first viewing device; and
 - a Radio Frequency (RF) driver coupled to the second tuner, the RF driver configured to facilitate transmission of an independent signal to a second viewing device, the second viewing device being different than the first viewing device.

2. (Currently Amended) The master STT as defined in claim 1, wherein the changed encoded signal is displayed at the first viewing device within two seconds from the remote STT receiving the user input.

3. (Currently Amended) The master STT as defined in claim 2, wherein the changed encoded signal is displayed at the first viewing device within a half-second from the remote STT receiving the user input.

4. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 3, wherein the transmitter and receiver operate according to a wireline standard selected from the group consisting of HomePlug and HomePNA.

5. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 2, wherein the transmitter and receiver operate according to a wireless standard selected from the group consisting of IEEE 802.11a, IEEE 802.11b, IEEE 802.11g, Bluetooth 2.0, HomeRF 2.0, HiperLAN/2, and Ultra-Wideband standards.

6. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 5, wherein the video encoder uses a form of digital compression.

7. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 6, wherein the video encoder is selected from the group consisting of Microsoft NetMeeting, Windows Media Player, and Real Player.

8. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 6, wherein the low latency between the reception of the control signal and the transmission of the changed television signal is achieved by immediately encoding and transmitting a lower quality video signal.

9. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 8, wherein a higher quality video signal is transmitted after a period during which the lower quality video signal is transmitted.

10. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 9, wherein the period of lower quality video transmission allows the higher quality video signal to be encoded for transmission.

11. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 9, wherein the encoding format is at least one of H.263, H.323, H.324, MPEG-1, low bit-rate MPEG-2, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4.

12. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 11, wherein the encoding format is low bit-rate MPEG-2 and at least one of H.323, H.324, MPEG-1, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4.

13. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 11, wherein the encoding format is H.263 and at least one of H.323, H.324, MPEG-1, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4.

14. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 11, wherein the transmitted signal includes an encoding parameter enabling the remote STT to decode the transmitted signal using multiple decoding algorithms according to the encoding parameters.

15. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 1, wherein the received multiplexed signal further comprises a program information component, and the master STT further comprises a program guide generator, receiving the program information from the received multiplexed signal and generating a program guide therefrom that can be transmitted by the transmitter upon a user request for the program guide at the remote STT.

16. (Currently Amended) The master STT as defined in claim 1, wherein the ~~system~~ master STT further comprises an internet connection, and the transmitter is capable of transmitting content derived from the internet connection to the remote STT.

17. (Currently Amended) A master set top terminal (STT), comprising:
a first tuner tuning a digital television signal from a received multiplexed signal into a first tuned digital television signal;
a second tuner tuning the digital television signal from the received multiplexed signal into a second tuned digital television signal;

a transmitter coupled to the first tuner and transmitting the first tuned digital television signal to a remote STT to be displayed on a first viewing device;

a receiver receiving a control signal from the remote STT corresponding to a user input;
~~and~~

a controller coupled to the receiver and configured to accept the control signal from the receiver and instruct the first tuner to change the first tuned digital television signal in response thereto, such that the transmitter transmits the changed first tuned digital television signal to the remote STT for display on the viewing STT within two seconds from the remote STT receiving the user ~~input.~~ input; and

a Radio Frequency (RF) driver coupled to the second tuner, the RF driver configured to facilitate transmission of an independent signal to a second viewing device, the second viewing device being different than the first viewing device.

18. (Currently Amended) The master STT as defined in claim 17, wherein the changed tuned digital television signal is displayed on the first viewing device within a half-second from the user input being received at the remote STT.

19. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 17, wherein the tuned digital television signal is re-encoded at a lower bit-rate prior to being transmitted to the remote STT.

20. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 19, wherein the digital television signal is an MPEG-2 signal at a 3Mbps bit-rate, and the re-encoded signal is a lower quality video signal.

21. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 20, wherein the re-encoding format is selected from the group consisting of H.263 and low bit-rate MPEG-2.

22. – 51 (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) A television distribution system comprising:
a remote set top terminal (STT) comprising:
 a first receiver receiving an encoded video signal from a master STT;
 a decoder coupled to the first receiver and translating the encoded video signal into a decoded video signal suitable for a first viewing device;
 a user interface receiving a user input and converting it to a control signal;
 a first transmitter coupled to the user interface and sending the control signal to the master STT to achieve a change in the encoded video signal;
 the first receiver receives a change in the encoded video signal responsive to the control signal, wherein the remote STT sends the change to the first viewing device within three seconds of the user input;
a master STT comprising:
 a first tuner tuning a television signal from a received multiplexed signal, into a first tuned television signal;

a second tuner tuning a television signal from the received multiplexed signal into a second tuned television signal;

an encoder coupled to the first tuner and encoding the first tuned television signal;

a second transmitter coupled to the output of the encoder, and sending an encoded video signal to the remote STT;

a second receiver receiving the control signal from the remote STT; ~~and~~

a controller coupled to the receiver and configured to accept the control signal from the receiver and instruct the first tuner to change the first tuned television signal in response thereto, such that the transmitter transmits a changed encoded signal to the remote STT for display on the first viewing device within three seconds from the remote STT receiving the user ~~input~~. input; and

a Radio Frequency (RF) driver coupled to the second tuner, the RF driver configured to facilitate transmission of an independent signal to a second viewing device, the second viewing device being different than the first viewing device.

53. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in claim 52, wherein the response to the user input is seen at the first viewing device within two seconds after the user input is received.

54. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in claim 53, wherein the response to the user input is seen at the first viewing device within a half-second after the user input is received.

55. (Original) The system as defined in claim 52, wherein the video encoder uses a form of digital compression.

56. (Original) The system as defined in claim 55, wherein the video encoder is selected from the group consisting of Microsoft NetMeeting, Windows Media Player, and Real Player.

57. (Original) The system as defined in claim 55, wherein the encoding format is at least one of H.263, H.323, H.324, MPEG-1, low bit-rate MPEG-2, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4.

58. (Original) The system as defined in claim 57, wherein the encoding format is H.263 and at least one of H.323, H.324, MPEG-1, low bit-rate MPEG-2, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4.

59. (Original) The system as defined in claim 57, wherein the encoding format is low bit-rate MPEG-2 and at least one of H.323, H.324, MPEG-1, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4.

60. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in claim 52, wherein the multiplexed signal further comprises a broadcast file system signal, and the master STT further comprises a program guide generator, receiving the broadcast file system signal, compiling a database therefrom, and generating a program guide therefrom that can be viewed by the first viewing device upon a user request for the program guide at the remote STT.

61. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 52, wherein the remote STT further comprises a web browser, and the master STT comprises an internet connection coupled to the transmitter, allowing the web browser to browse a plurality of websites.

62. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 52, wherein the remote STT further comprises an internet connection coupled to a web browser, allowing the remote STT to browse a plurality of websites.

63. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 52, wherein the master STT further comprises a web browser and an internet connection and is capable of transmitting an image of the web browser and website to the remote STT.

64. – 113. (Canceled)